

## Tailgate Safety Talks

### Underground Utility Safety

The nine steps to achieve underground utility safety include:

- 1) Underground utility safety begins by **marking the proposed excavation area with white** paint, white stakes or white flags.
- 2) Upon marking the proposed excavation area the **one call system** is to be **notified of the impending excavation**.
  - a) Dig Safely New York (1-800-962-7962)
  - b) New York City Long Island One Call Center (1-800-272-4480).
  - c) Utilities that do not belong to the one call system shall be contacted separately.
- 3) The *one call system will notify applicable underground utility companies*.
- 4) The *utility companies will determine and mark all locations of underground utilities*.
  - a) The contractor should **check to see that underground utility markings are connected to physical features**.
    - i) Underground gas markings are connected to gas valve boxes
    - ii) Utility wires running down utility poles are connected to underground electrical and/or communication markings
    - iii) Marked underground water mains connect to water valves and hydrants
    - iv) Underground utility markings are connected/directed to manholes, valves, drainage structures etc.
- 5) Contractor must **verify the location of conflicting underground facilities**.
  - a) Marked underground utilities that the contractor can not verify shall be immediately reported to the one call center and utility company.
    - i) The *utility company must locate the underground utility*.
- 6) **Power equipment may not be used within 100 mm (4 inches) of an underground utility facility**.
  - a) Only a hand shovel or vacuum excavation can be used within the 100 mm of the underground utility.
  - b) Excavation is prohibited within the tolerance zone of a marked underground utility prior to verifying the precise location, size, depth, and direction of the marked the utility.
    - i) The tolerance zone is the a distance of 0.6m (24 inches) on either side of the designated centerline, plus one-half of the utility diameter, if the utility diameter is known.
    - ii) Upon verifying the precise location, size, depth, and direction of the marked the utility the contractor may begin excavating within 24 inches of the marked utility Excavation near a marked underground utility should begin outside and adjacent to the 0.6 m (24") underground utility tolerance zone until the underground utility is located.
  - c) Power equipment may be used to remove pavement prior to verifying the location of the underground utility.
    - i) Our spec permits only the removal of the pavement.
    - ii) The utility location must be verified before any excavation with power equipment below the pavement.

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- (1) Removing pavement over marked underground utilities should be begin by breaking, scooping and moving pavement outside and adjacent to the 0.6 m (24") underground utility tolerance zone.
- 7) The contractor shall **support and protect from damage all exposed underground facilities**.
- 8) The Contractor shall **protect and preserve underground utility markings** until no longer required for safe work near the underground facility.
- 9) The Contractor shall provide to the Engineer, in writing, the information provided to the one-call notification system, or the Utility if it is not a One-Call notification system member, and the control number issued for each call placed to request designation of underground facilities.

### **Contact or Damage of an Underground Utility**

- 1) In the case of natural gas and/or electric facility contacts, the contractor is to stop work, evacuate the site, contact 911 (notifying the police and fire departments), notify the utility company and notify the engineer-in-charge.
- 2) In the event that an underground facility (other than natural gas facility) is contacted or damaged, the contractor shall immediately notify the utility and engineer-in-charge, suspend excavation or demolition in the immediate vicinity of the contacted or damaged facility and take emergency actions as are warranted to protect all endangered persons.